

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY East Germany
SUBJECT Report of Polio Epidemic

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BY CABLE
REFERENCES

Two KFA (Kammer fuer Aussenhandel) officials returning from Leipzig have confirmed numerous reports of a serious polio epidemic. Large social gatherings have been prohibited by the authorities and details of the epidemic are considered classified. The epidemic is a source of consternation to East German foreign trade authorities. These fear that the epidemic will be publicized by the Western press, adversely affecting foreign attendance and the success of the Leipzig fair.

☐ Comment: Neues Deutschland, in its issue of 20 August, labels the polio reports as a Western provocation and cites alleged health statistics in an attempt to discount them.

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